

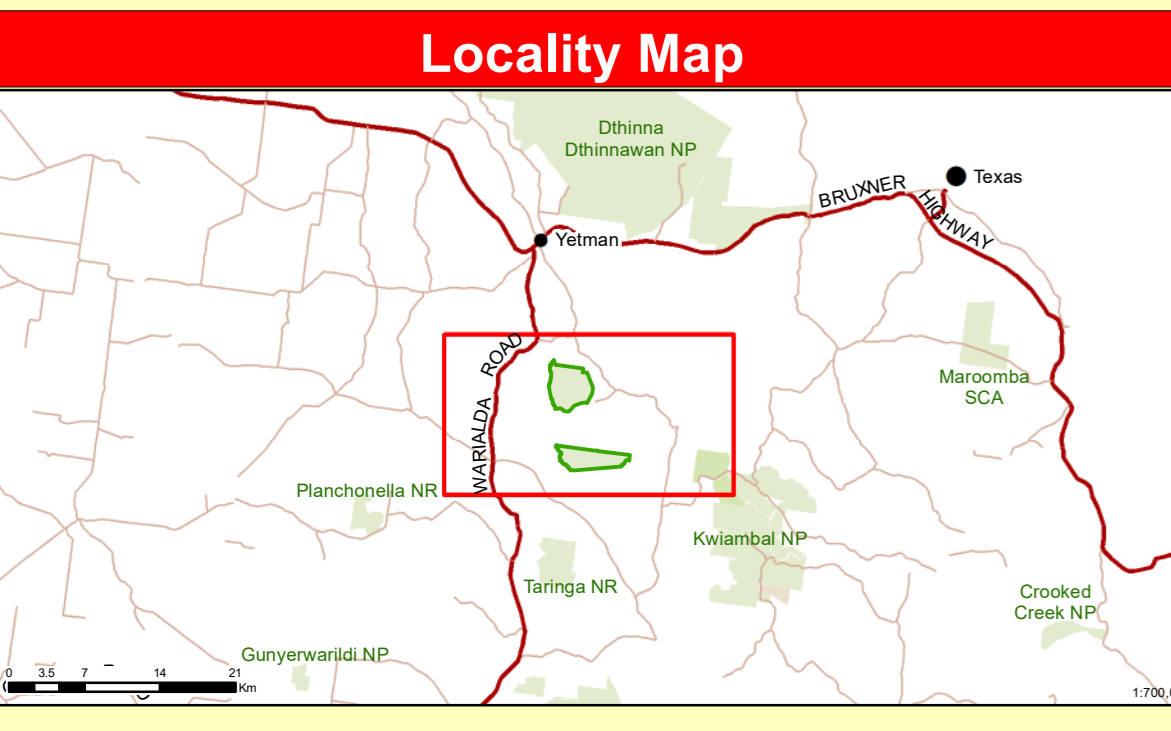
Burrall Yurrul NP & NR

Fire Management Strategy (Type 2)

2022 - 2027

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This strategy is a relevant Plan under Section 38 (4) and Section 44 (3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997.



Map details
Datum: GDA, 1994, MGA, Zone 56 | Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_GDA_1994 | Note: scales: True when printed on A0 size paper
Local Government Area: Yerrin Shire Council | Topographic Map: 1:50,000, Rocky Dam 903N

Contact Information

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Area Manager	0400 531 889
	Duty Officer (24 hour)	0275 1742
NSW Rural Fire Service - New England	Emergency Area Office (24 hours)	0792 7264
	NT Zone Manager	0759 6600
Forest Corporation of NSW	NT Duty Officer	0759 9911
	NT Zone Office	0759 9900
Fire & Rescue NSW	Coffs Harbour	0662 2111
	State Duty Officer	0252 5200
Emergency Services	SES	132 500
	Police	Yerrin
Council	Yerrin Shire Council	0752 5268
	Tomahull LALC	07 4756 2348
Local Aboriginal Land Council	Texas Multi-purpose Health Service (Mungah Rd, Texas)	07 4603 3200
	Livestock Services (296, 211 or 2213 mp)	0427 464 188
Permission to Access via Bedwell Downs Road	Yerrin	0418 157 04
	Yerrin	02 4752 0052

Communications

Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS Repeaters	335	• Yerrin & Hill
	330	• North Yerrin Group
	635	• Yerrin
OTA - 400		• Emergency communication is available back to Narrabri. VHF links are through Glen Innes
HF		• Emergency communication is available back to Narrabri. VHF links are through Glen Innes
HF	NB11	• Northern Tablelands Digital Voice
UMF - CB		• Small fire channel (10 legal fire channels) by MFT
Aviation - CTAF	134.75	• NB frequency unless another frequency is allocated on an incident.
Mobile		• Mobile coverage is unreliable
Beacon InReach		• Text messages may be sent from a personal mobile phone via an InReach handset to another mobile number using the Bedwell Downs Road

Fire Season Information

Wildfires	The critical wildfire season occurs during October to December. This period may extend into January in drier years. Particular care is required during periods of negative Southern Oscillation indices. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet spring activity.
Prescribed Burning	Effective prescribed burning is done with LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard may need to be conducted once the 'critical fire season' and thunderstorm season is over. Prescribed burning after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.

Operational Guidelines

Aerial operations need specialist approval before any approval in these reserves. There is one IS 3 site near Simpsons Creek. Trail just outside of the Nature Reserve at CR 28418 (S78856) that could be damaged by water bombing. There are numerous IS 2 sites throughout the reserves that could be damaged by water bombing.

If aerial fire suppression activities are required, the fixed wing operations are performed over rotary wing operations due to potentially less ground disturbance. Aerial operations potentially will have less impact than ground machinery operations. The location of known indigenous sites to proposed operations should be carefully considered.

Strategically important aerial operations where there are no known indigenous sites may be implemented if directed by the MFT.

Aerial Operations

- Aerial ignition operations are permitted if directed by the MFT.
- Aerial operations will be managed by the MFT and completed personnel. This includes directing aerial bombing and aerial ignition operations.
- The location of burning aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.
- All aerial ignition operations require the consent of a senior NPWS officer or the Section 44 Approver.
- All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin.
- All backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, or low humidity to maximize effectiveness.
- Where possible clear around dead and forous backed trees adjacent to control lines prior to backburning. MFT or ground crew members should provide ground crews with maps of indigenous sites in areas they can avoid site disturbance.
- Locate and prepare the IS 1 site in the National Park if back burning in the vicinity of Burrall Creek. Plan for less than normal heavy plant support during backburning operations.

Command & Control

- The first containment agency to arrive must ensure control of the fire, but must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.
- The Incident Controller will work with the RFS to ensure that the agency in command is determined and an Incident Controller is appointed.
- The containment lines must be established before the fire reaches the site.
- Where possible, containment lines should be established and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

Containment Lines

- Construction of containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental and no indigenous sites are impacted.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.
- Containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed immediately at the cessation of the incident.

Earthmoving Equipment

- Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Plant must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer and accompanied by a support vehicle (NPWS). When engaged in ground work, this vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle.
- Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
- Minimising the impact of plant on indigenous sites is a priority. Careful consideration should be given to the type of plant required to reduce possible disturbance, i.e. machine crushing a tree for a containment line may be preferable to loading off. All sites should be appropriately flagged if near roads and fire trails.

Fire Suppression Chemicals

- The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of creeks and watercourses holding water.
- The use of foam, wetting agents and retardants is encouraged to minimise the potential impacts of ground to aerial water pressure on indigenous sites, as long as those sites are outside of the 50m watercourse buffer.
- The aerial use of salts and retardants should be approved by a senior NPWS officer.
- The use of retardants requires the approval of a senior NPWS officer.

Heritage Guidelines

Burrall Yurrul National Park and Nature Reserve are rich in Aboriginal heritage and many indigenous sites are documented near creek lines and roads. Of the more than 60 sites identified, only one is IS 1 (vulnerable to fire). The remainder of the sites are IS 2 or IS 3 where fire fighting activities such as heavy plant work and water bombing may be detrimental to the sites.

Two major clusters of sites exist within the reserves, one in the north east corner of the Nature Reserve near Simpsons Creek and the second in the North East of the National Park near Burrall Creek. There are also scattered individual sites scattered throughout the reserves near fire trails, containment tracks and other areas not previously accessed by machinery. It is likely that many more sites exist than have been mapped.

Fire suppression activities in the reserves must be carefully planned to avoid known indigenous sites and implemented under the guidance of staff with good local knowledge. Direct action on lightning strikes has been documented in the past where the fire has been distant from known sites.

If it is recommended that fire suppression activities are required in Burrall Yurrul National Park or Nature Reserve that a special call be established within the MFT to ensure known indigenous sites are protected from the impacts of suppression activities.

All on ground fire fighting staff should be briefed on the importance of cultural heritage in the reserve, site locations near their assigned location and the required protection actions for each site before undertaking suppression activities.

IS 1 - As far as possible, protect site from fire. Do not cut down trees.
IS 2 - As far as possible, protect the site from fire. Avoid all ground disturbance and driving over water. Avoid water bombing which may cause ground disturbance. Avoid water bombing. Site may be burnt by fire without damage.
Modified trees
IS 3 - As far as possible, protect the site from fire, and do not cut trees.
Use of fauna & retardants is acceptable.

Habitat sites

- Exclude control line construction from sites. Consider a buffer zone of about 50 metres from the sites.
- NPWS spatial data must be checked as part of planning for fire operations.
- There are no known historical sites within the reserves.

Historic Sites

- The protective actions for threatened fauna have been incorporated into the Operational Guidelines.
- There are some threatened fauna sites within the reserves, but their presence would not affect fire suppression activities.
- Any altered maintenance works must carefully assess their ensure cultural heritage sites are not impacted.
- If fire suppression activities have occurred, a site inspection should be undertaken to determine if remedial works are required, and whether special conditions are required to protect sites. Remedial works should be planned and operators briefed on the works and indigenous site protection.
- If works are required near known sites, they should be supervised by a staff member with good local knowledge. Options for hand works rather than machine works near sites should be explored.

Suppression Strategies

Intent: Fire History suggests landscape scale fires driven by NW winds in the main fire trail to the reserve. The reserve also has multiple indigenous sites that could be negatively affected primarily from heavy plant disturbance. Fire suppression involves careful planning to protect indigenous sites when direct attack occurs. To protect the fire to a small area, if wildfires are running, working from existing trails to stop the south west wind of trees is the priority. Fire suppression burning which aims to improve the ability to stop smoke earlier. Fire work may be undertaken if indigenous sites can be protected in the HRB.

All vegetation types

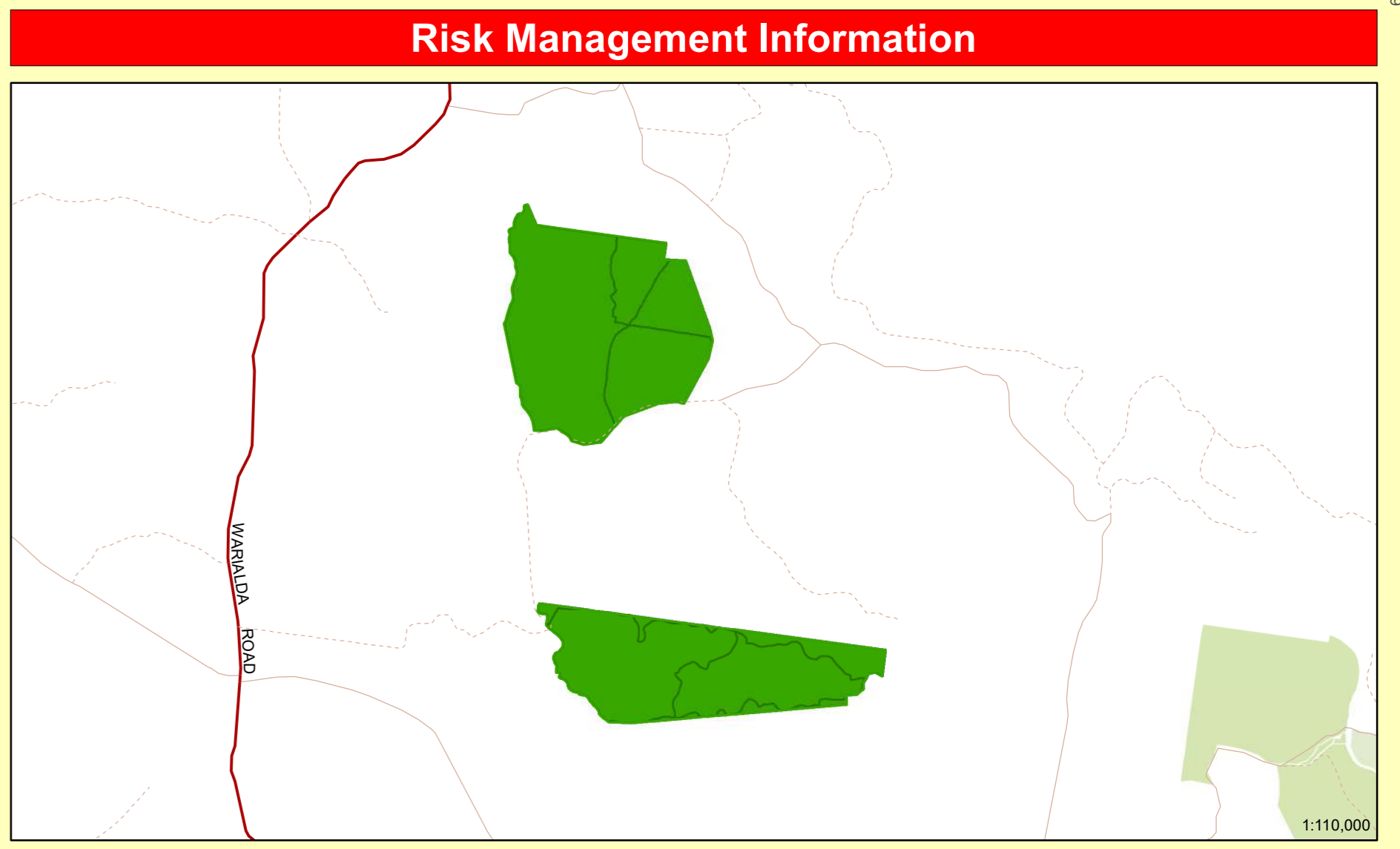
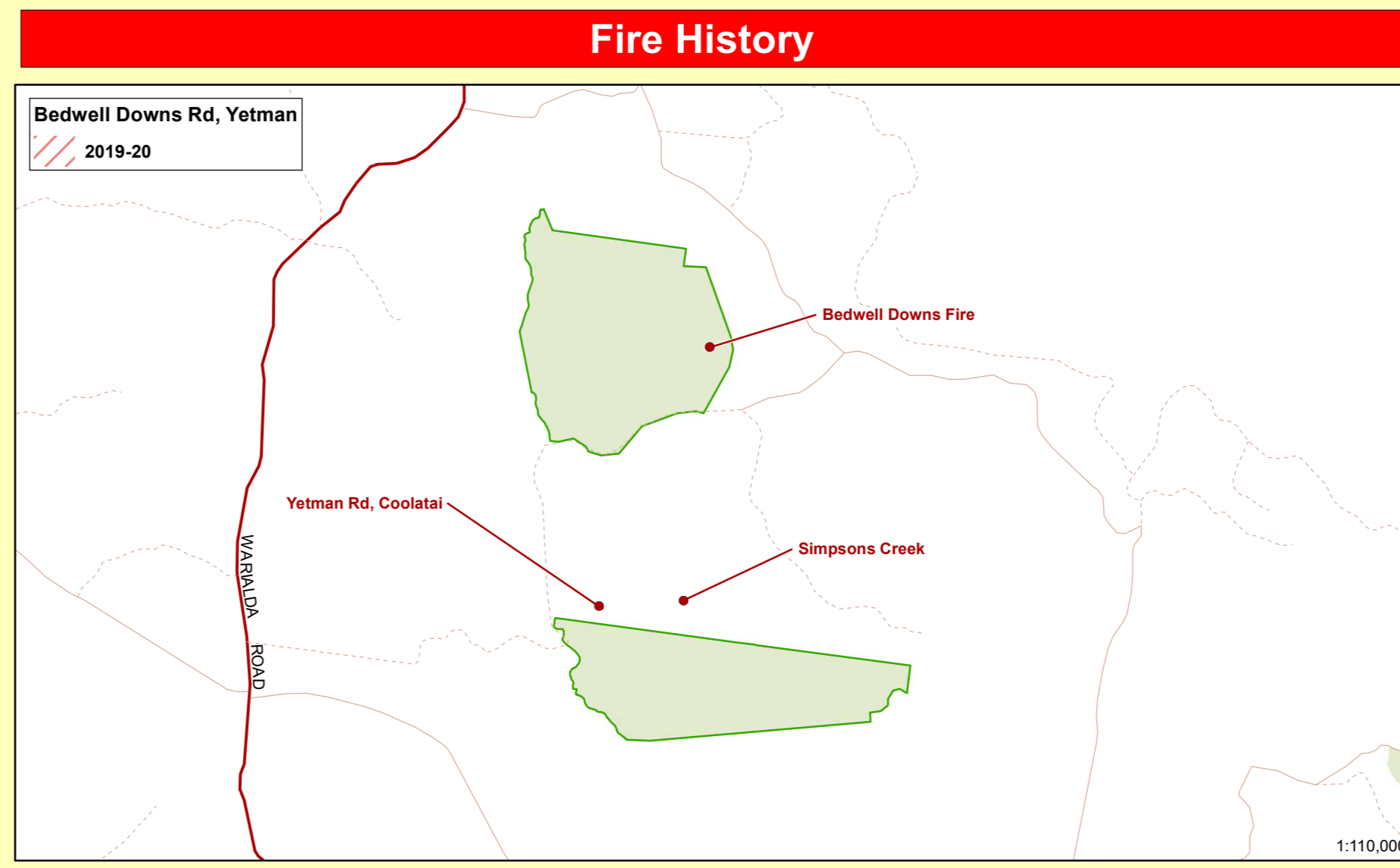
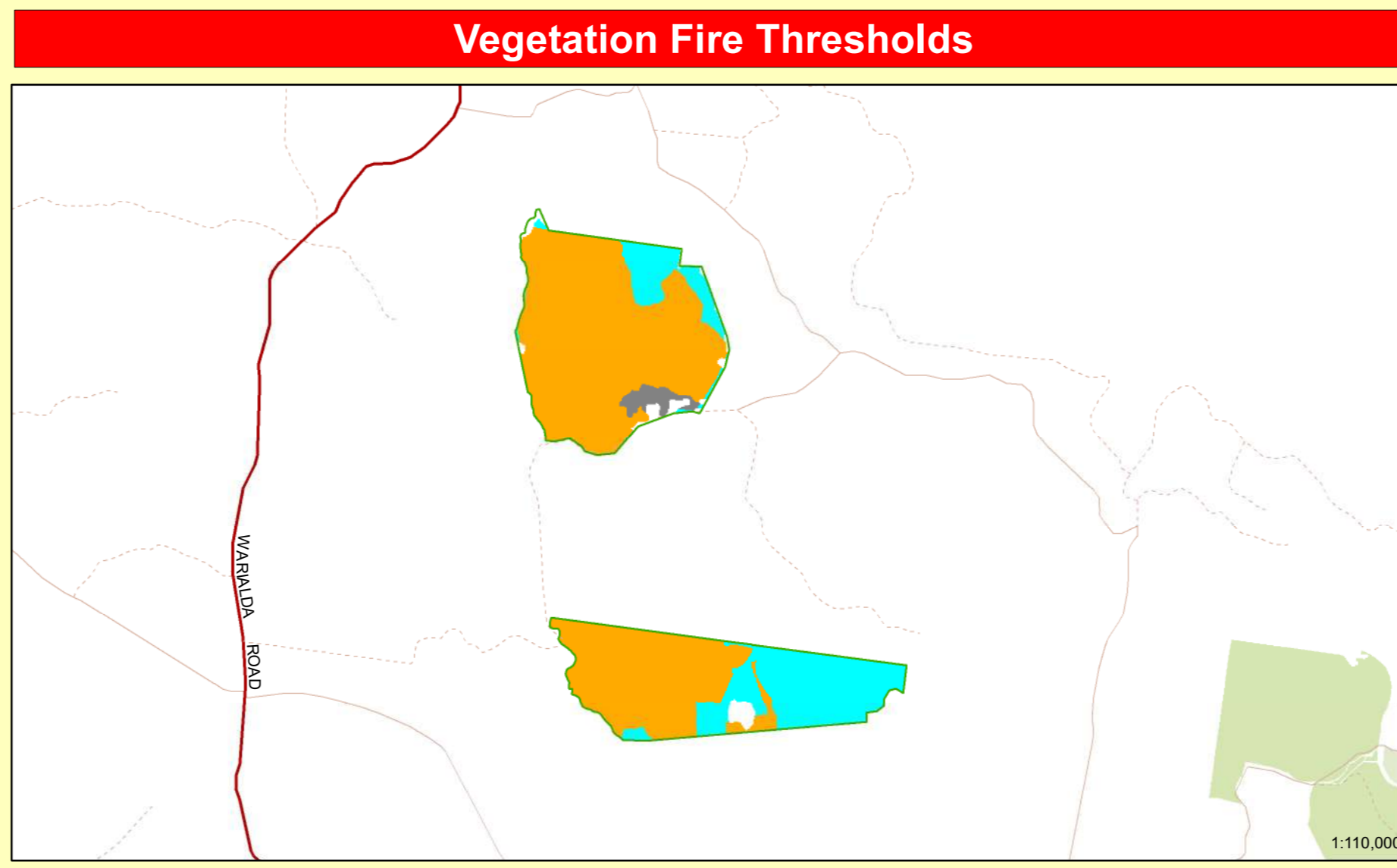
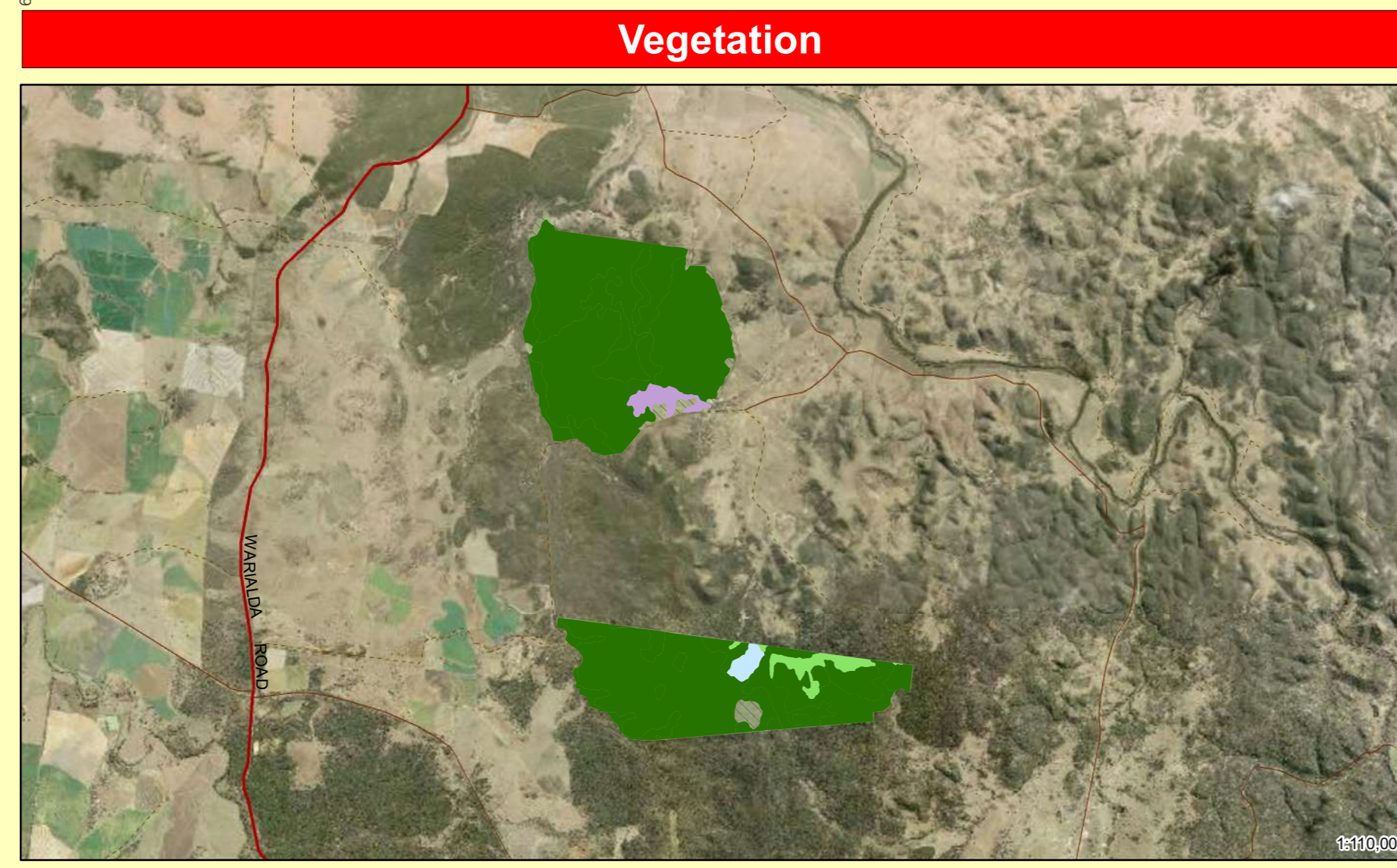
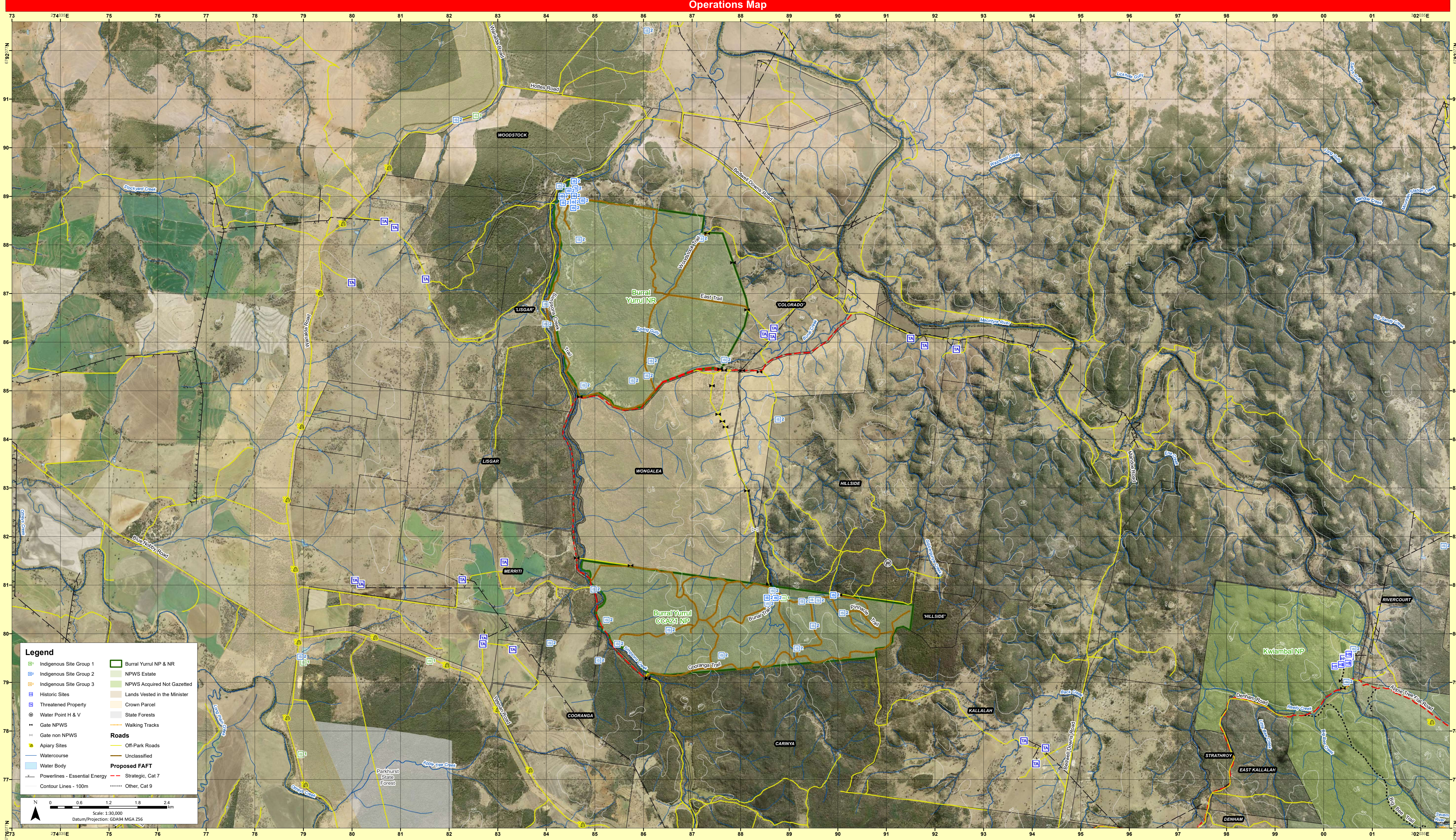
Plant and parallel attack with hand tools and aviation support to extinguish the fire when it occurs. Heavy plant may be used if directed by the MFT once consideration of indigenous sites has occurred.

Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long term management requirements for biodiversity. Focus actions on limiting the south western spread of fire possible.

Close parallel attack with hand tools around the head only when the fire stops running.

Distance between the tank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum.

Warning: The restriction on removal and control trees used may be on private property and of variable maintenance standards.



Vegetation Formation

Vegetation Management Guidelines

- The high formation is lower quality in the north of the National Park. There is no record of fire in this vegetation type.
- The vegetation is a mixed shrub and tree woodland.
- The maximum shrub height is 10m.
- A high frequency of lightning strikes is likely to occur.
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- The maximum shrub height is 10m.
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Fire Behaviour

- Low potential risk of spread during moderate to high wind speeds.
- High potential risk of spread during moderate to high wind speeds.
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Vegetation Threshold	Treatment
Too Frequently Burnt	Fire thresholds have been exceeded. Protect from fire as far as possible.
Vulnerable to Frequent Fire	The current interval since last fire is shorter than the recommended minimum interval.
Within Threshold	Fire history is within the threshold for vegetation in this area. A burn is neither required nor should one necessarily be avoided.
Long Unburnt	Fire frequency is below fire thresholds in the area. A prescribed burn may be advantageous. Consider allowing unplanned fires to burn.
Unknown	Insufficient data to determine fire thresholds.
No Regime Assigned	Areas which do not have recommended fire intervals assigned to them: cleared land, rock.

NB: Fire thresholds are defined for vegetation communities to conserve biodiversity

Fire Type	Fire Details
Prescribed Burn	There are no records of prescribed burning occurring in Burrall Yurrul National Park or Nature Reserve.
Wildfire	There are four recorded wildfire events in or around Burrall Yurrul National Park and Nature Reserve. The 2014/15 Yerrin Road Coolat and the 2015/16 Bedwell Downs lightning strikes were contained to a small area by direct attack. The other two wildfires had landscape scale characteristics that aligned NNW winds with the main timbered ridgelines. The key to breaking up large scale fire runs is to use the limited existing east west road network to contain fire spread. 2019-20: Bedwell Downs Rd, Yerrin - A lightning strike that caused a landscape scale fire of 2,066 ha that was 2 km wide and 11 km long and followed the main timbered ridgelines. 2015-16: Bedwell Downs - A lightning strike that was contained to 20 ha by direct attack. 2014-15: Yerrin Rd, Coolat - A 4 ha wildfire that was contained by direct attack. 2009-10: Simpsons Creek - A 5,077 ha landscape scale fire that was 3 km wide and 23 km long. It followed a very similar but larger pathway to the Bedwell Downs Rd fire of 2019/20.

Fire Management Zone	Treatment
Asset Protection Zones	The objective of APZs is the protection of human life and property. This will have precedence over guidelines for the management of biodiversity. Maintain Overall Fuel Hazard at Moderate or below.
Strategic Fire Advantage Zones	The objective of SFAZs is to reduce fire intensity in locations to assist containment of wildfires, by maintaining the Overall Fuel Hazard at HIGH or below.
Land Management Zones	The objective of LMZs is to conserve biodiversity and protect cultural heritage. Manage fire consistent with fire thresholds.